

ed Bulgaria and Romania from 28-5-79 to 6-6-79 on an invitation from the Defence Ministers of these countries. The return journey was via London. Details of expenditure incurred are under compilation as certain expenditure details are still awaited.

(c) This was primarily a goodwill visit during which there was a general and fruitful exchange of views on subjects of mutual interest. No contracts/agreements were signed. A Protocol was signed with Bulgaria on Defence Cooperation. In London DPM (Def) had, apart from exchange of views with the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary of U.K., looked into the problems of critical procurement through India Supply Wing of our High Commission in U.K.

(d) The following Officers from Ministry of Defence and Service Hqrs. accompanied DPM(Def.) for detailed study of the possibilities of cooperation with these countries, in addition PS to DPM (Def.) and a personal attendant also accompanied.

- (i) Lt. Gen. S. Menezes, VCOAS
- (ii) Shri P. S. Kohli, Jt. Secretary (P&C).
- (iii) Shri B. B. Sahai, Joint secretary (P&W).
- (iv) Maj. Gen. S. C. Payara, CCP & D.
- (v) Air Cmde. M. M. Sinha, OSD (Plg.).
- (vi) Capt. KASZ Raju, Jt. Director (Navy).

Provision of Legal Aid to weaker Sections

292. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring before Parliament at an early date a Bill for providing free

legal aid to the economically weaker sections of the community all over the country;

(b) if so, how and when and with what broad provisions; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Although Bhagwati Committee on National Juridicare have recommended legislation for providing free legal aid to the economically weaker sections of the community all over the country and have appended a draft bill with their Report, the Government is yet to take a decision thereon. An Inter-departmental Committee has been set up with a view to prepare a Paper for the directions of the Cabinet on the various points emerging from the Bhagwati Committee Report. It is about to conclude its work. It would, therefore, not be possible to give a specific answer to this question at this stage.

(b) and (c). In view of the above, these questions do not arise.

Foreign Visit by Minister

293. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently visited Soviet Union and other countries;

(b) if so, full facts thereof;

(c) purposes and results of the said visits; and

(d) total expenses incurred and the names of the officials who accompanied him to the said visits and reasons for their so accompanying him?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers visited the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia from 28-5-79